

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 10:20 a.m. on April 11 in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. The videotape was played in the Press Secretary's press gaggle on April 14, and copies of the video were made available but were not issued as a White House Press Release. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Joint Proclamation by the Heads of Government of Six Countries Regarding the Completion of the Human Genome Sequence

April 14, 2003

We, the Heads of Government of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Germany, and China, are proud to announce that scientists from our six countries have completed the essential sequence of three billion base pairs of DNA of the human genome, the molecular instruction book of human life.

Remarkable advances in genetic science and technology have been made in the five decades since the landmark discovery of the double-helix structure of DNA in April 1953. Now, in the very month and year of the 50th anniversary of that important discovery by Watson and Crick, the International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium has completed decoding all the chapters of the instruction book of human life. This information is now freely available to the world without constraints via public databases on the World Wide Web.

This genetic sequence provides us with the fundamental platform for understanding ourselves, from which revolutionary progress will be made in biomedical sciences and in the health and welfare of humankind. Thus, we take today an important step toward establishing a healthier future for all the peoples of the globe, for whom the human genome serves as a common inheritance.

We congratulate all the people who participated in this project on their creativity and dedication. Their outstanding work will be noted in the history of science and technology, and as well in the history of humankind, as a landmark achievement.

We encourage the world to celebrate the scientific achievement of completing the Human Genome Project, and we exhort the scientific and medical communities to rededicate themselves to the utilization of these new discoveries to reduce human suffering.

His Excellency
Jacques Chirac,
President of the French Republic.

The Honorable
George Bush,
President of the United States of America.

The Right Honorable
Tony Blair, M.P.,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

His Excellency
Gerhard Schroeder,
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

His Excellency
Junichiro Koizumi,
Prime Minister of Japan.

His Excellency
WEN Jiabao,
Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint proclamation.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq

April 14, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration. This report includes matters relating to

planning for post-liberation Iraq under section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–338).

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Remarks Following Discussions With Business Leaders

April 15, 2003

Christine, thanks for the kind words. Thank you for being a entrepreneur who was encouraging to your fellow workers to serve their country. You represent a lot of bosses across this country who encouraged the reservist or the guard, who made sure there was a job available when they came home and, at the same time, supported their family. And I want to thank you very much for that.

I want to welcome you all to the Rose Garden. It is a beautiful day. It's a beautiful day for our country too. We've got troops still fighting in Iraq, and our Nation takes great pride in the men and women who wear our country's uniform and who sacrifice for security and peace. The world has seen their skill and their courage and their humanity. They bring security to our country and, at the same time, bring freedom to the Iraqi people.

I appreciate the chance to meet with small-business leaders from around our country to discuss the challenges facing our economy. The small-business folks in America, the entrepreneurs, represent one of the great strengths of this country, the spirit of free enterprise, the willingness to take risk, the hard work required to move this economy forward.

Small-business owners and employees understand that this economy has a great deal of unmet potential. The American people have all the talent to meet that potential, and that's why I'm so optimistic about the future for our economy.

The Nation needs quick action by our Congress on a progrowth economic package. We need tax relief totaling at least \$550 billion to make sure our economy grows. And

American workers and American businesses need every bit of that relief now so that people who want to find a job can find one, so that people looking for work are able to put food on the table for their families.

I want to thank Christine for coming. I appreciate the fact that she is the CEO of her own business. We just had a roundtable discussion in the Roosevelt Room, and one of the things I love—told the folks there I loved about America was the fact that somebody can own their own business, that ours is an ownership society. I think that's one of the things that makes America so unique, is the entrepreneurial spirit and the drive by people from all walks of life to start their own business, succeed with their own business. And at the same time, it's that drive that makes it likely somebody is going to find work.

I appreciate Karla Aaron, who's with us as well, Hialeah Metal Spinning from South Florida. And I want to thank Tim Barrett, who is the owner of Wood World. Tim said he's got—he's about as small a business unit as you can get. He's got four employees. I said, "Well, it's four times bigger than the smallest." [Laughter] And I appreciate Frank Fillmore as the president of The Fillmore Group. Thank you all for standing up here as well.

Steve Anderson was with us today, who is the head of the National Restaurant Association. His association represents all kinds of entrepreneurs. The restaurant industry is a great place for people to get their start in achieving the American Dream.

Sal Gomez was here representing the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The most interesting statistics about the entrepreneurial spirit is the number of Hispanic small businesses that are flourishing in our country. It's one of the great tributes to America and our open society.

I appreciate so very much Tom Donohue, who is the head of the U.S. Chamber, for joining us today. Jerry Jasinowski is the head of the National Association of Manufacturers, is with us. Karen Kerrigan is the Small Business Survival Committee—that's a pretty good name. [Laughter] Tom Musser is the National Federation of Independent Businesses, NFIB. And Terry Neese is Women